(b) whether the contractors are also not giving to employees full monthly quota of working days thus denying them the full wages;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Complaints of payment of wages less than the prescribed wages by contractors and others are received from time to time.

(b) As per information received, no such instance has been reported.

(c) does not arise.

(d) The contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 provides for disbursement of wages in the presence of an authorized representative of the principal employers and in case the contractor fails to pay wages or makes short payment, the principal employer is liable to pay the same and recover the amount from the contractor. Complaints received in this regard are investigated and remedial action taken in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the rules framed thereunder.

Meeting of NDC

1757. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the decisions taken by the National Development council in its meeting held in June, 2005 and the areas in which decline in growth rate has been noted;

(b) whether sub-Committees for providing relief on agriculture and States loan have been set-up;

(c) if so, by when the said Committees would submit their reports to Government; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to implement the decisions taken by National Development Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The National Development council

met under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 27th & 28th June, 2005 to consider the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan and took the following decisions:

1. The NDC expressed broad agreement with the goals and policies suggested in the Mid-term Appraisal which could act as a blue print for further action on development matters in the Tenth Plan and as the starting point for initiating work on the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Planning Commission was directed to examine a number of valuable suggestions made by Chief Ministers during the course of discussions which require a review of some of the policies, programmes and approaches.

2. The NDC took note of the concerns express by the chief Ministers about issues relating to State finances, particularly the effects of the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission, the level of permissible market borrowings and interest costs on borrowings as also issues relating to mineral royalties and externally aided projects. It was decided to set up a Committee separately under the Finance Minister to examine relevant issues relating to the debt burdern of States and debt relief with reference to their debt outstandings against the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF).

3. Recognizing the fact that agriculture and irrigation have been a common theme in the interventions of the Chief Ministers, and that rejuvenating the agricultural credit system, providing some measure of relief to farmers, improving the quality of our extension work, attending to the specific needs and problems of dry lands and wastelands and enhancing investments in irrigation have emerged as common concerns, the NDC agreed to form a Sub-Committee for drawing up implementable action plans in agriculture and related issues. The NDC Sub-Committee is expected to submit its report within the next six months for inclusion in the Approach Paper to the Eleventh five Year Plan.

4. On the Employment Guarantee Act, the suggestions that payment of wages should be mostly in cash since there were problems in movement of foodgrains to backward areas and that being the self-targeting programmes, the Employment Guarantee should cover non-BPL families were noted by the NDC, and it was directed to consider them for inclusion in the final draft of the National Employment Guarantee Bill.

5. To look into the need for providing adequate flexibility in the design of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, the National Rural Health Mission and Bharat Nirman etc., to take account of State level realities and priorities, as well as the feasibility of their transfer to States/UTs or amalgamation into four or five broad heads with the freedom to develop locally relevant programmes, the NDC directed the Planning commission to consider setting up an Expert Group to develop concrete proposals for restructuring the CSS, in consultation with the concerned Ministries/Departments.

6. Recognizing that improvement in physical infrastructure has also emerged as a common priority and increased private participation has now become a necessity to mobilize the resources needed to achieve its expansion and upgradation, the NDC observed that successful promotion of private participation in infrastructure requires a well-designed framework of policies in which investors have the assurance that standards of services will be maintained and concessions will be transparently awarded and directed the Central Government to work towards evolving such a framework, which could be adopted by the States.

7. The Planning Commission was directed to begin work on the Approach to the Eleventh Five Year Plan with a view to submit it for National Development Council's approval by the end of December, 2005.

There has been a decline in the growth rate of agriculture sector during the Tenth Plan period. The rate of growth of agriculture declined from 2.1% during the Ninth Plan to 1.0% during the first three years of the Tenth Plan. The industry and services sectors, on the other hand, have shown an increase in growth rates from 4.6% to 7.0% for industry and 8.1% to 8.6% for services during the corresponding periods.

(c) The sub-Committee on Agriculture and related issues set up on 25th August, 2005 under the Chairmanship of Minister of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and requested to submit its Interim Report by December, 2005 and Final Report by July, 2006. The Committee to examine issues relating to the debt burden of States and debt relief with reference to their debt outstandings against the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) set up on 16th September, 2005

under the Chairmanship of Minister of Finance has been requested to give suitable recommendations within a period of three months of its constitution.

(d) Steps have already been initiated on the decisions/directions concerning Planning Commission. Besides, Planning Commission has also circulated the decisions/directions of the National Development Council to all Central Ministries/Departments as well as State Governments/UT Administrations for taking action as deemed necessary.

Disenchantment among the public about non-profit organization

1758. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a concern about growing disenchantment among the public with non-profit organizations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Planning Commission sponsored study had called for pro-active monitoring mechanisms that are inspection and performance driven; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) A Planning Commission sponsored study on 'A Review of Charities Administration in India' conducted by the Sampradaan Indian Centre for Philanthropy, New Delhi (2004) suggested that: "A monitoring and evaluation system should be put in place whose objective is to improve performance, and not mere inspection. We believe there must be more thorough monitoring, with a certain percentage of organizations being regularly visited and scrutinized". This study report, among others, has been placed on the website of Planning Commission under the icon "SER' (Socio-Economic Research).